

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSM-03 PA-01
H-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /088 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

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O 101821Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION SINAI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE
DOD IMMEDIATE
JCS IMMEDIATE
CIA IMMEDIATE
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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: WHITE HOUSE BACKGROUND BRIEFING

FOLLOWING IS THE BACKGROUND PRESS BRIEFING GIVEN BY
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL AT THE WHITE HOUSE THE AFTERNOON
OF FEBRUARY 8, 1978. THE BRIEFING WAS ATTRIBUTABLE TO
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, BUT DIRECT QUOTATION WAS NOT
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PERMITTED. (FYI ONLY, ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL WAS
ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON.)

Q. YOU START OFF BY SAYING IN HERE THAT ISRAELIS SHOULD
WITHDRAW THEIR ARMED FORCES AND THEN YOU SAY LATER ON IN
THIS STATEMENT THAT FURTHER SETTLEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE
PERMITTED.

DOES THIS MEAN THEY DON'T NEED TO WITHDRAW THE EXISTING
SETTLEMENTS, BUT THEY ONLY SHOULD NOT START NEW
SETTLEMENTS?

A. OUR POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN THAT ANY SETTLEMENTS ARE
CONTRARY TO INTERNATIONAL LAW -- PUTTING THEM THERE WAS
CONTRARY AND THAT THEIR EXISTENCE IS AN IMPEDIMENT TO
PEACE.

Q. BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE A GAP IN THIS WORDING.

A. WHAT WE ARE SAYING IS THAT OUR POSITION ABOUT THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE FIRST PLACE IS NOT
CHANGED. BUT THE REALITY IS THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN
SETTLEMENTS THAT ARE THERE. FURTHER SETTLEMENT
ACTIVITY WOULD SIMPLY FURTHER COMPLICATE THE PEACE
PROCESS.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY ACTIVITY, ARE YOU IMPLYING ALSO ANYTHING LIKE LEGALIZING EXISTING SETTLEMENTS, ARE YOU GOING A LITTLE FURTHER THAN WE HAVE GONE IN THE PAST?

A. I WOULD LOOK AT THAT AS AN ALL-ENCOMPASSING PHRASE. IT REALLY MEANS WHAT IT SAYS.

Q. WHAT KIND OF PROMISES OR ASSURANCES DID PRESIDENT SADAT GET FROM THE ADMINISTRATION IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST FOR ARMS?
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A. I THINK THAT STANDS RIGHT WHERE IT STOOD AS FAR AS I KNOW. CLEARLY, HE HAS INDICATED AN INTEREST. HE SAID IT PUBLICLY SINCE HE HAS BEEN HERE, AND WHEN A DECISION IS MADE, THERE WILL BE APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION WITH AND NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS AND IT WILL BE MADE KNOWN AT THAT TIME.

Q. WHEN DO YOU EXPECT THE DECISION TO BE MADE?

A. I CAN'T GIVE YOU AN ESTIMATE ON THAT.

Q. WHAT WAS THE PRESIDENT'S REACTION TO HIS REQUEST?

A. I AM AFRAID I CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY REACTION ON THAT.

Q. WHY HAS THE PRESIDENT, A WEEK FROM LAST MONDAY, SAID HE WILL REACH A DECISION LAST WEEK? WHY HAS THAT BEEN DELAYED? ANY PARTICULAR REASON?

A. I AM AFRAID, ON THIS ONE, THIS IS SOMETHING I JUST CAN'T TAKE ANY FURTHER. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE HAS ANYTHING TO ADD ON THE WHITE HOUSE SIDE.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US IF THERE HAS BEEN AN AMERICAN MILITARY SURVEY OF EGYPT'S MILITARY NEEDS?

A. THERE IS NOT, NO.

Q. IS THERE GOING TO BE ONE?

A. I HAVE NO IDEA. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THAT IS A LIKELIHOOD OR UNDER CONSIDERATION.
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Q. WHAT DOES THE PHRASE MEAN, "RESOLUTION 242 IS APPLICABLE TO ALL FRONTS OF THE CONFLICT?"

A. I THINK AGAIN IT MEANS JUST WHAT IT SAYS. IT HAS BEEN OUR INTERPRETATION EVER SINCE 1967 THAT RESOLUTION 242 IN ITS PHRASEOLOGY ABOUT WITHDRAWAL FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967, REFERS TO WITHDRAWAL ON ALL FRONTS, SINAI, GOLAN, AS WELL AS THE WEST BANK AND GAZA TERRITORIES.

Q. DID YOU HAVE TO REAFFIRM THAT BECAUSE OF CONCERN THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE NOT --

A. I THINK THERE HAS BEEN SOME QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER EVERYONE ACCEPTED THAT PARTICULAR INTERPRETATION. WE FELT IT IMPORTANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THAT IS STILL OUR VIEW. IT IS NOT A NEW VIEW. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR VIEW.

Q. WAS THAT SENTENCE PUT IN THERE BECAUSE THE ISRAELI PEACE PLAN ON THE WEST BANK DOES NOT INVOLVE WITHDRAWAL?

A. NO, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT. THE ISRAELI PEACE PLAN, IF YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE PLAN FOR SELF-RULE, IS NOT A FINAL ARRANGEMENT. IT WAS PUT FORWARD AS A PLAN WHICH WOULD BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW AT THE END OF FIVE YEARS. I WOULD READ IT AS A STATEMENT OF A GENERAL POSITION IN PRINCIPLE, JUST TO REMIND EVERYONE WHAT HAS BEEN OUR POSITION FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS AND MORE, THAT THE RESOLUTION 242 IS APPLICABLE ON ALL FRONT. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME WHO HAVE EXPRESSED THE VIEW HAVE RAISED QUESTION AT LEAST ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT 242 APPLIES ON ALL FRONTS. WE SIMPLY WANTED TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THAT REMAINS OUR POSITION.

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Q. "THE UNITED STATES WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL TO ITS HISTORIC COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL." NO MATTER WHAT ISRAEL DOES, THE UNITED STATES WILL BE COMMITTED TO ITS SECURITY?

A. THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL, ABSOLUTELY, NO QUESTION AB OUT THAT.

Q. IS IT UNDERSTOOD NOW THAT THE ASWAN LANGUAGE, IN ALL ITS ASPECTS -- LEGITIMATE RIGHTS, PARTICIPATION IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE -- IS THE LANGUAGE THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT WOULD LIKE TO SEE INCORPORATED IN THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES?

A. THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ARE STILL OBVIOUSLY UNDER NEGOTIATION. I REALLY THINK AT THIS STAGE TO TRY

TO SAY WHAT ANY PARTICULAR PARTY THINKS SHOULD BE THE FINAL LANGUAGE ON THAT WOULD BE PREMATURE.

Q. THE EGYPTIANS HAVE SAID THEY SUPPORT THAT LANGUAGE. THIS IS PRESIDENT CARTER'S OWN LANGUAGE.

A. THAT IS RIGHT.

Q. DON'T WE SUPPORT THAT LANGUAGE?

A. WE STAND BY THAT LANGUAGE, BUT WE ARE NOT THE ONLY PARTY THAT IS IN THIS NEGOTIATING PROCESS. WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO IS TO FIND LANGUAGE THAT IS ACCEPTABLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL.

THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL GOING ON. WE HAVE NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ARRIVED AT A COMMON, AGREED LANGUAGE ON THAT ISSUE YET.

Q. HAVE THESE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS AND OTHER PEOPLE IN OUR GOVERNMENT ENHANCED THE PROSPECTS FOR RESUMPTION OF THE POLITICAL TALKS, AND, IF SO, WHEN? IF SO, HOW SOON?

A. THEY HAVE CLEARLY, I THINK, REAFFIRMED OUR COMMITMENT TO PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN HELPING, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, EGYPT AND ISRAEL COME TO AGREEMENT ON AN AGREED DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. YOU ALL HEARD WHAT PRESIDENT SADAT SAID WHEN HE LEFT WHICH WAS A VERY POSITIVE AFFIRMATION OF HIS COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE THE POLITICAL PROCESS AND TO STAY WITH IT.

THE COMPLETION OF AGREEMENT ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, I THINK PRESIDENT SADAT HAS MADE CLEAR, IS HE WOULD LIKE THAT AGREEMENT REACHED BEFORE THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE RECONVENES. SO, THERE IS STILL NO AGREEMENT ON WHEN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WILL RECONVENE. BUT I THINK THE FACT THAT THERE IS A REDOUBLED EFFORT AND A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO RESUME THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, IN THAT SENSE, CONTRIBUTES TO ARRIVING AT A POINT WHERE THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE CAN RECONVENE.

Q. IS THAT WHAT YOU WILL BE ASKING THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT TO AGREE TO WHEN YOU GO BACK THERE, TO ENDORSE THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES WHICH PRESIDENT SADAT HAS ALREADY DONE?

A. NO. I AM GOING BACK TO CONTINUE WHERE I LEFT OFF IN TRYING TO HELP ISRAEL AND EGYPT COME TO COMMON LANGUAGE ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. OUR ROLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THIS UP TO NOW HAS BEEN TO TRY TO FIND WAYS OF BRIDGING THE GAPS BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. YOU USE THE WORD REDOUBLED. IN THE COMMUNIQUE HERE, IT HAS THE PHRASE, "THE PRESIDENT WILL SPARE NO EFFORT IN SEEKING WAYS." CAN YOU GIVE US SOME IDEA OF HOW YOU REDOUBLE AND HOW YOU SPARE NO EFFORT?

A. I SUPPOSE I COULD SAY FACETIOUSLY THAT I WILL BE RUNNING TWICE AS FAST WHEN I GO OUT. (LAUGHTER) BUT SERIOUSLY, I THINK IT IS JUST TO GIVE A SENSE OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO IT, OF THE URGENCY WE ATTACH. I WOULDN'T TRY TO READ IT MORE LITERALLY THAN THAT.

Q. THE PRESIDENT SAID, "THERE CAN BE NO JUST AND LASTING PEACE WITHOUT RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM." DOES THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAVE ANYTHING IN MIND IN THAT REGARD?

A. THAT IS CORRECT, AND THEN THE STATEMENT GOES ON TO REAFFIRM WHAT THE PRESIDENT SAID ABOUT THAT IN ASWAN. THOSE ARE THE ELEMENTS WHICH WE VIEW AS PRINCIPLES ON WHICH WE THINK AN APPROACH TO A RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM SHOULD BE BASED.

Q. IS THERE ANY CHANGE IN THE AMERICAN ROLE WHEN PRESIDENT SADAT SAID THAT AFTER HIS VISIT, HE WILL NOT BE ANYMORE A GO-BETWEEN AND A MEDIATOR, BUT A PARTICIPANT, A PARTNER? WHAT CHANGE IS THERE IN THE AMERICAN ROLE?

A. I SIMPLY SEE A MORE INTENSIVE ROLE. IT IS MORE, I LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD SAY, A MATTER OF DEGREE THAN OF KIND AT THIS POINT. WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN VERY ACTIVE. WE ARE GOING TO TRY TO MOVE THINGS ALONG EVEN MORE ACTIVELY IN THE FUTURE.

Q. MORE INTENSIVE ROLE BY TAKING SUBSTANTIVE POSITIONS.

IN OTHER WORDS, "WE RECOMMEND YOU ACCEPT THIS LANGUAGE?" HOW CAN YOU PLAY A MORE INTENSIVE ROLE EXCEPT RUNNING BACK AND FORTH?

A. WE HAVE ALWAYS, IN THE PREVIOUS NEGOTIATIONS THAT WE HAVE HELPED ON, GOING ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS, GOING BACK TO THE EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT AN AGREED AGENDA FOR THE JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE TALKS, TRIED TO GET THE PARTIES, STIMULATE THE PARTIES TO PUT FORWARD NEW POSITIONS, TO MODIFY THEIR POSITIONS IN WAYS THAT WOULD MOVE TOWARDS THE POSITION OF THE OTHER.

WE HAVE ALWAYS AT GIVEN MOMENTS MADE SUGGESTIONS ABOUT HOW THIS MIGHT HAPPEN. I CERTAINLY DON'T RULE THAT OUT, BUT IT IS A CASE OF DECIDING AT THAT POINT WHAT WOULD BE USEFUL.

Q. BUT YOU ARE SAYING HERE THAT 242 IS A REMINDER TO THE PARTIES, THAT IT IS APPLICABLE TO ALL FRONTS. WHY THEN IS NOT THE LANGUAGE ON THE PALESTINIANS, LEGITIMATE RIGHTS, ET CETERA, ALSO A REMINDER THAT THAT IS WHAT THE UNITED STATES WANTS IN THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES?

A. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE. 242 IS A RESOLUTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ACCEPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT HAS A FORMAL STATUS, INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED AND ACCEPTED BY ALL THE PARTIES AS THE BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THE ASWAN LANGUAGE ON THE PALESTINIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTION IS A UNILATERAL UNITED STATES STATEMENT OF CERTAIN PRINCIPLES THAT WE THINK SHOULD APPLY.

IT HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED YET BY THE PARTIES AS COMMON LANGUAGE. SO THERE IS THAT DIFFERENCE.

Q. IF I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION AS TO WHERE IT STANDS ON THE PRINCIPLES, THIS REITERATION OF ASWAN LANGUAGE GOES CONSIDERABLY BEYOND WHERE THE PARTIES NOW STAND IN RELATION TO WHAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO AGREE TO PUT INTO THE PRINCIPLES FOR AGREEMENT; NAMELY, LEGITIMATE RIGHTS, THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND ALL ITS ASPECTS, PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE.

BY RESTATING THIS AT THIS TIME, DOESN'T THIS NOW CHANGE THE CURRENT NEGOTIATING POSITION IN WHICH YOU

ARE ENGAGED?

A. I THINK IT REAFFIRMS WHAT WE THINK WOULD BE A

REASONABLE PRINCIPLE OR SET OF PRINCIPLES ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. BUT IT STILL DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT IS ACCEPTED BY THE PARTIES. WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE NEGOTIATIONS WHERE THEY LEFT OFF.

Q. I AM WELL AWARE IT IS NOT ACCEPTABLE BY THE PARTIES BECAUSE THE ISRAELIS, OF COURSE, HAVE OBJECTED TO THREE OF THOSE POINTS IN THERE, AT LEAST TWO OF THEM. WHAT I AM ASKING IS BY RESTATING IT NOW, DOES IT NOT NOW PUT MORE WEIGHT ON THE AMERICAN REQUEST ON THE ISRAELI'S POSITION TO CHANGE, TO CONFORM TO THIS LANGUAGE?

A. LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY. I THINK IT IS CERTAINLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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AN INDICATION OF THE DIRECTION IN WHICH WE THINK MOVEMENT SHOULD BE OR MIGHT BE POSSIBLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT IT TO BE READ AS SAYING THAT WE HAVE THEREFORE SAID THIS IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE THAT WILL DO. WE STILL HAVE A NEGOTIATING SITUATION AND A NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

Q. WOULD YOU SAY EGYPT IS SUBSTANTIALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH ALL THE POINTS MADE HERE IN THIS STATEMENT?

A. I WOULD REALLY RATHER LET THE EGYPTIANS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES ON THAT. BUT ON THE ASWAN LANGUAGE HERE PARTICULARLY, BECAUSE SOMEBODY HERE MADE THE COMMENT THAT THE EGYPTIANS HAVE ACCEPTED THIS, I THINK TO BE QUITE PRECISE, THEY HAVE CERTAINLY INDICATED, AS THEY DID IN ASWAN, THAT THEY FOUND THIS A HELPFUL FORMULATION. BUT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WHEN YOU ARE GETTING DOWN TO PRECISE TEXTS WHICH PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SIGN ONTO AT SOME POINT, THAT PRECISE LANGUAGE HAS NOT BEEN FORMALLY ACCEPTED AS LANGUAGE THEY WOULD SIGN THEIR NAMES TO BY EITHER SIDE. IT IS STILL IN THE NEGOTIATING SITUATION.

Q. ONE OF THE POINTS TALKED ABOUT, "THE PEACE SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE COMPREHENSIVE AND SHOULD BE EMBODIED IN PEACE TREATIES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EACH OF ITS NEIGHBORS." CAN NEIGHBORS BE READ AS COUNTRIES?

A. IT IS MEANT TO BE READ AS COUNTRIES.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS NOW THAT THESE TALKS ARE CONCLUDED, TO BRIEF OR INFORM KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED HERE IN THE LAST FEW DAYS?

A. WE FOLLOW A PRACTICE, AND WE WILL DO IT IN THIS CASE,

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OF BEING IN TOUCH WITH ALL OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST ABOUT MEETINGS OF THIS KIND AND GIVING THEM A REPORT ON THOSE ELEMENTS WHICH WE THINK CAN BE SHARED AND WHICH WE THINK WOULD BE OF CONCERN AND INTEREST TO THEM. WE WILL BE DOING SO IN THIS CASE THROUGH OUR AMBASSADORS.

Q. HOW ABOUT ISRAEL, WILL THAT BE DONE THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN?

A. IN THE CASE OF ISRAEL, IT WILL BE DONE THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN. SINCE HE IS IN THIS COUNTRY, I WILL BE GOING UP TO NEW YORK TO GIVE HIM A FILL-IN ON THIS.

Q. MAY I ASK A QUESTION? IS IT ACCURATE TO INFER FROM THIS SENTENCE HERE ABOUT 242 APPLICABLE ON ALL FRONTS, SOME CRITICISM OF THE ISRAELI PLAN?

A. NO. THAT IS NOT MEANT TO REFER TO THE ISRAELI PLAN. AS I SAID EARLIER, THE SO-CALLED SELF-RULE PLAN IS A PLAN FOR NEW ARRANGEMENTS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA WHICH WOULD BE REVIEWED AFTER FIVE YEARS. IT DOES NOT SAY THEY ARE THE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS. WE ARE TALKING ABOUT WHAT APPLIES TO THE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PEACE. IN A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT WE HAVE ALWAYS VIEWED THAT RESOLUTION 242 AND ALL ITS PARTS APPLIES TO ALL THE FRONTS WHERE THERE IS OCCUPIED TERRITORY.

Q. WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO RESTATE ALL OF THIS STUFF IF THE ISRAELIS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO INFER FROM THIS SOME KIND OF CRITICISM OF WHAT THEY PUT FORWARD?

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A. I THINK I ANSWERED THAT A LITTLE EARLIER. I THINK IT IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT THERE ARE SOME ELEMENTS IN THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM IN ISRAEL WHO HAVE TAKEN A POSITION THAT THEY HAVE AN EQUAL CLAIM TO THIS AREA. AND THERE HAS BEEN SOME QUESTION RAISED ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF THE APPLICATION OF 242 IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.

WE SIMPLY WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW THAT NOTHING IS CHANGED. IT DOES REMAIN APPLICABLE BUT IN ALL ITS PARTS, WHICH MEANS ALSO THE PARTS HAVING TO

DO WITH THE COMMITMENTS TO PEACE, WITH COMMITMENTS TO

AGREEMENT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS ON SECURE AND
RECOGNIZED BORDERS.

Q. DO YOU MEAN BEGIN BY THAT, TOO?

A. I WOULD RATHER NOT GET MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT.

Q. THERE ARE SEVERAL FACTORS IN THE PROCESS OF THIS
STATEMENT WHICH AROUSE QUESTION. ONE IS WHY WAS THE
ISSUE OF THE SETTLEMENTS BROUGHT INTO THIS STATEMENT? YOU
COULD HAVE BROUGHT IN THE QUESTION OF THE POSSIBLE
PALESTINIAN ENTITY BEING INVOLVED IN SOME WAY, TOO.
AND (B) I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER OR NOT IN THE
DISCUSSIONS THERE WAS ANY TALK BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS
IN WHICH THERE WAS SOME IDEA THAT SECURE RECOGNIZED
BORDERS ALSO MEANS SALIENTS SOUTH OF THE GAZA STRIP,
ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, ON THE WEST BANK, WHICH WOULD BE
UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY, WHICH IS
ALSO PART OF 242, WHICH IS NOT MENTIONED IN THIS.

BY IMPLICATION, THIS STATEMENT FAVORS THE EGYPTIAN AND
THE ARAB SIDE, WHICH IS UNDERSTOOD IN THE LIGHT OF THE
VISIT, BUT WHY WERE THESE OTHER ELEMENTS NOT INCLUDED,
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AND SETTLEMENTS BROUGHT IN?

A. ON THE FIRST QUESTION, THE SETTLEMENTS HAVE
BEEN VERY MUCH A PART OF THE DISCUSSIONS. PRESIDENT SADAT
HAS STATED A NUMBER OF TIMES, INCLUDING IN HIS NATIONAL
PRESS CLUB SPEECH, HIS POSITION ON SETTLEMENTS. IT WAS
A SUBJECT THAT WAS DISCUSSED AND THEREFORE IT IS
REFLECTED IN THE STATEMENT ON THE DISCUSSIONS. OUR
POSITION IS RESTATED AS IT HAS BEEN MANY TIMES BEFORE.
THE QUESTION OF SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS AND THE
NEED FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF A PEACE
SETTLEMENT IS CLEARLY THERE IN THE STATEMENT IN THE
REFERENCE TO SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS.

Q. INCLUDING TERRITORIES?

A. WE ARE NOT GOING TO NEGOTIATE THIS THING OUT HERE IN
THE BRIEFING ROOM. LET ME JUST MAKE ONE POINT. THE
LANGUAGE ON TERRITORIES IN THIS STATEMENT IS THE
LANGUAGE OF RESOLUTION 242.

Q. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE ARMS AGREEMENTS?

A. NOTHING BEYOND WHAT I HAVE ALREADY SAID.

Q. WILL THE EGYPTIANS GET THE F-5E'S?

A. I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING BEYOND WHAT I ALREADY SAID ON THAT.

Q. YOU HAVE TALKED ABOUT REAFFIRMING AND INTENSIFYING, BUT HAS ANYTHING REALLY CHANGED AS A RESULT OF THIS?

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A. I WOULD LIKE TO ANSWER THAT LAST QUESTION BECAUSE I THINK THAT IS AN IMPORTANT ONE. READ PRESIDENT SADAT'S FAREWELL REMARKS WHEN HE LEFT HERE. THEY ARE VERY IMPORTANT. HE CAME CLEARLY WITH SOME -- HE SAID DISAPPOINTED, DISCOURAGED -- WITH SOME DOUBTS ABOUT WHERE AND HOW THINGS WERE GOING TO MOVE. HE FELT THE NEED TO HAVE A TALK IN DEPTH, AS WE DID, TO TRY TO MAKE SURE THAT WE BOTH UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER.

I THINK HE WENT AWAY WITH A VERY GREAT DEAL OF REASSURANCE THAT WE DO REMAIN COMMITTED, THAT WE ARE GOING TO STAY WITH THIS PROCESS UNREMITTINGLY, AND THAT THIS IS THE THRUST OF THE VISIT, AND THE MOST IMPORTANT SINGLE THING TO COME OUT OF IT IS THIS SENSE OF RENEWED MOMENTUM.

Q. WHAT MADE HIM STOP BEING DISCOURAGED AND DISAPPOINTED?

A. I THINK THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIT FOR HOURS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND REASSURE HIMSELF THAT THE PRESIDENT IS AS COMMITTED AS HE HAS EVER BEEN TO THIS PROCESS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 sep 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, THE PRESS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE035772
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780063-0175
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802120/baaafbup.tel
Line Count: 581
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 769cb5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3475287
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WHITE HOUSE BACKGROUND BRIEFING
TAGS: PFOR, XF
To: AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/769cb5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014